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Simeon Metcalf to Gen.l Scott Col. Floyd Jas. Duane and Lt. Van Rensselaer delegates to Congress from N. Y.

Philadelphia Aug.t 18th 1783

Honourable Sir

Having received authentic information that there are members of people who acknowledge not allegiance to any State in the Union now receiving livery and seizing from the British of the lands and Islands on Lake Champlain particularly the island called Grand Isle which was never heretofore granted by New-Hampshire any more than the lands where I resided in the township of Pattsburgh commonly called Missigne all granted by and settled under the Government now State of New-York to which I propose immediately or as soon as circumstances admit to return with my family in order to which if you judge it proper I should be glad to be favored with the sanction of Congress you will be pleased to recollect that I remained there after the retreat of the army out of Canada with the approbation of Congress as will appear by Mr Hancocks own hand.

That in 1781 when last removed from there by General Bayley acting under the direction of his Excellency the Commander in Chief, I yielded my possession for the public benefit; if my residence here has not accelerated the British measures towards a peace as they scruple not in Canada to acknowledge. I flatter myself with having been the happy instrument of warding in some measure the blow that was intended under the command of St Leger in the autumn of the year 1781 while our army was engaged against Lord Cornwallis in Virginia in consequence of which together with my constant opposition to the efforts made to raise the Canadians in arms against the States. I have been 8 years an exile two years bereft of my family and have suffered a total demolition of all my building and moveable property add to which they have taken timber during the last three years from my estate to the value of upwards of ten thousand pounds sterling a large portion of which they have carried off since the cession of hostilities.

Having thus cheerfully yielded my possession for the safety of the public and that to my very great damage if our finances admit not of compensation in any degree, honor at least claims the reinvestiture of the possession. By the Letter I have received from Mrs Metcalf and my son in Canada, dated the 14th July it appears Governeur Shere have in

view the placing Col. Allen (I suppose Ira Allen) on my improvement at Missisque. I also informed by a General Officer in the service of the States that measures are taken within our limits to the Northward to carry this design into execution & I find the British Government in Canada to gloss over this intrigue) have raised a report that I have sold Col Allen all my property in that country and the same report has also been spread in Vermont to delude the people to become parties in measures they would otherwise disavow. It is needless for me to suggest their views in this step. I have only to remark to you that Crown Point and Ticonderoga are no longer the barrier of our country it is now Windmill Point and Plattsburg by which these States or Canada may be alternately invaded each of which offord stronger military Positions than either of the former places. And the British Govt having conceived an opinion that the majority of their people in Canada have for these 6 or 7 years acted on my opinion will naturally wish my removal from that position. The Canadians who have joined our cause and of course become exiles have applied to me for Lands at Plattsburgh which I have consented to on terms which would be very agreable and advantageous to them as I proposed to give each a donation of Lands and to make partition of a large portion of my cleared lands among them for several years till they can branch out into more commodious and advantageous settlements. I also purpose to allow them to cut timber and sell it for their support the first year. The means for procuring provisions for the ensuing winter is the only obstacle I am informed of which prevents them embracing these conditions by which their attachment to their religion country and friends would be gratified and they and their connections still held in our interest. I find the British from policy not love or humanity have opened their arms to receive back those exiled Canadians who of themselves can effect nothing of consequence to our disadvantage yet if they go back dissatisfied as it is well known nine tenths of them are the change they may produce in the minds of their countrymen (where my letters inform me a general dissatisfaction reigns) must be obvious to Gentlemen of your discernment and may become an object of national importance.

The distracted situation of my affairs my property in (Europe.

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A Pardon by Thos Chittenden.

In Council arlington June 24th 1789

The Petition of Timothy Phelps a prisoner in Goal in the County of Bennington praying to this Council to be pardoned & discharged from his sentence of Banishment promising to be a liege subject of this ~~subject~~ State being read whereupon resolved that the said Timothy Phelps be & he is hereby fully pardoned & discharged from the said sentence of the Superior Court given in September Last provided he pay the cost of the prosecution & Commitment &c

Extracts from the Journals of Council. Thos Chittenden.